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BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

IN AND FOR THE STATE OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR AGENCY ACTION OF UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING FOR AN ORDER TERMINATING NOTICE OF INTENTION OF TONY AGUIAR D/B/A DIVERSIFIED STONE PRODUCTS, INC.; REQUIRING IMMEDIATE RECLAMATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO FILE SUIT TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF RECLAMATION OF THE WONDER 2 MINE \$410025, W 1/2, NE QUARTER, SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, SLB&M, SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH.

DOCKET NO. 2009-017 CAUSE NO. S410025

TAKEN AT: Department of Natural Resources

1594 West North Temple, Room 1040

Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 2009

TIME: 9:36 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Michelle Mallonee, RPR

[2] 1 APPEARANCES 2 3 BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING: Douglas E. Johnson, Chairman 4 James T. Jensen 5 Ruland J. Gill, Jr. Jake Y. Harouny 6 Kelly Payne Samuel C. Quigley (Excused) 7 Jean Semborski 8 9 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING: John R. Baza, Director 10 Dana Dean, Associate Director, Mining 11 Gil Hunt, Associate Director, Oil and Gas Steve Schneider, Administrative Policy Coordinator Julie Ann Carter, Secretary to the Board 12 Marianne Burbidge, Legal Secretary 13 14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL: 15 Steven F. Alder - Division Attorney Fred Donaldson - Division Attorney 16 Michael S. Johnson - Board Attorney Stephen Schwendiman - Board Attorney 17 Megan Depaulis - Board Attorney 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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1 Docket No. 2009-017 Cause No. S410025 2 Wednesday, December 9, 2009 (The proceedings began at 9:35 a.m.) 3 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Agenda Item No. 3 is Docket 4 No. 2009-017 Cause No. S410025 - In the Matter of the 5 Request for Agency Action of Utah Division of Oil, Gas 6 and Mining for an Order Terminating Notice of Intention 7 8 of Tony Aguiar d/b/a Diversified Stone Products, Inc.; Requiring Immediate Reclamation; and Authorizing the 9 Division to File Suit to Recover the Costs of Reclamation 10 of the Wonder 2 Mine S410025, W 1/2, NE Quarter, Section 11 23, Township 26 South, Range 4 West, SLB&M, Sevier 12 13 County, Utah. Mr. McDonald -- Donaldson, excuse me. Fred, you 14 15 are representing the State. MR. DONALDSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Members of 16 the Board. 17 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: And do we have anybody here 18 representing Diversified Stone Products? 19 MR. DONALDSON: Not to my knowledge. 20 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. So if you are the only 21 22 party, Mr. Donaldson, please proceed. 23 MR. DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Division is here before the Board requesting 24 an order terminating the notice of intention of Tony 25

Aguiar, doing business as Diversified Stone Products, and requiring immediate reclamation of the Wonder 2 mine, authorizing the Division to proceed to reclaim the site if reclamation is not completed in a timely manner, and authorizing the Division to file suit to recover the costs of reclamation and associated costs.

This is a small mine operation, a rock quarry, and we anticipate the matter to not take very long to hear. But we have a couple of individuals who will be testifying today. And we ask that they be sworn in at this time -- Mr. Lynn Kunzler, from the Division, and Mr. Michael Jackson, from the Bureau of Land Management.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Can we do that now?

THE REPORTER: Will you both raise your right hands, please?

You do solemnly swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

MR. JACKSON: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: We'll now proceed with some testimony from Mr. Kunzler.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Can you guys arrange the microphone so it will be between the two of you. Thank you.

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. DONALDSON:

MR. DONALDSON: Could you state your name and position with the Division?

MR. KUNZLER: I'm Lynn Kunzler. I'm currently employed with the Division as a senior reclamation specialist.

MR. DONALDSON: And how long have you worked for the Division as a reclamation specialist?

MR. KUNZLER: I've been in the minerals program for 15 1/2 years.

MR. DONALDSON: Could you please describe the Wonder 2 mining operation?

MR. KUNZLER: The Wonder 2 mining operation was a small mining operation disturbing approximately 1 3/4 acres of ground. The operator was after a banded rhyolite material for decorative stone building stone uses. It was mined using open-surface mining techniques, using a track hoe excavator to break the rhyolite from the deposit.

MR. DONALDSON: Turning to Exhibit D, this is the exhibit packet that you should have received this morning. The first page of that exhibit packet, could you just tell me what that is?

MR. KUNZLER: This was a illustration from GPS

data that I collected this fall from the site. The southern portion of it is the access road going into the site, making up approximately a quarter acre. The quarry itself is about 1-1/2 acres in size.

MR. DONALDSON: Thank you. Is it your understanding that -- to your knowledge, according to your knowledge, the last year an annual report was filed by Diversified Stone Products was 2005. Is that correct?

MR. KUNZLER: To my knowledge, that is correct.

MR. DONALDSON: And did the Division issue a cessation order requiring reclamation in 2007?

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: Now, turning to the other exhibits, these are attached in the actual filing, Exhibit A. Mr. Kunzler, can you tell me what Exhibit A is?

MR. KUNZLER: Exhibit A is the original notice, or plan of operations that was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, and subsequently copied to the Division. We accepted this as the notice from Diversified Stone for permitting the Wonder 2 mine.

MR. DONALDSON: And according to the exhibit, who is the operator of the mine?

MR. KUNZLER: Diversified Stone.

MR. DONALDSON: And who is the current president

1 of Diversified Stone Products, according to your 2 knowledge? MR. KUNZLER: That would be Tony Aguiar. 3 MR. DONALDSON: Did the operator post a 4 reclamation bond for the mine? 5 MR. KUNZLER: No. And at the time the notice 6 was submitted, neither the Division nor the BLM had 7 8 requirements for bonding small mining operations. Subsequently, both the BLM and the Division currently 9 have requirements for bonding. And this operation has 10 not complied with either the state or the BLM in bonding 11 12 this site. MR. DONALDSON: So to your knowledge, what is 13 the current status of the mining operation? 14 15 MR. KUNZLER: The current status is, it is inactive. There has been some reclamation work done at 16 17 the site, but it has not been completed. MR. DONALDSON: In Exhibit A, on the second page 18 under "Proposed Reclamation," what has the operator 19 20 indicated would occur with regard to reclamation of the area? 21 MR. KUNZLER: That all areas affected by the 22 23 operation would be recontoured to blend into the surrounding area. 24

MR. DONALDSON: And in your opinion have all

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areas affected by the mining operation been recontoured to put into the...

MR. KUNZLER: No.

MR. DONALDSON: Thank you. Have you visited the mining site -- did you visit the mining site in November of 2008.

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: And who was present during your visit?

MR. KUNZLER: I got to think on that one, to say for sure.

MR. DONALDSON: I think...

MR. KUNZLER: We could have had Michael Jackson from the BLM there, as well, at that time. I don't recall if Tony was there on that one.

MR. DONALDSON: Okay. At the time of that visit in 2008, what reclamation work had been completed?

MR. KUNZLER: There had been some re-grading work done. And the access road going into the site had been satisfactorily re-graded. The quarry itself had not.

MR. DONALDSON: Now turning your attention to Exhibit C in the filing. What is Exhibit C?

MR. KUNZLER: Exhibit C is a Notice of Agency Action that was submitted to Tony Aguiar to withdraw his

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permit and order immediate reclamation to be completed within 90 days.

MR. DONALDSON: Does the letter also inform Mr. Aguiar of the opportunity to request a hearing appealing the Division's action.

MR. KUNZLER: Yes. It did spell out his opportunity, or right, to request an appeal and hearing on this matter. And it provided the instructions to file for that appeal.

MR. DONALDSON: And did he request any appeal of that action?

MR. KUNZLER: To my knowledge, no appeal was ever requested.

MR. DONALDSON: And was the reclamation work completed within 90 days as required by the letter?

MR. KUNZLER: No.

MR. DONALDSON: Have you communicated with Mr. Aguiar since the letter marked Exhibit C was sent? That was in 2008.

MR. KUNZLER: Yes. I've talked to him a couple of times on the phone. There was hopes that he would have done that reclamation work this last spring. But due to various equipment breakdowns, not being to mobilize equipment to this site, or other reasons given, the work never did take place.

[11] MR. DONALDSON: And when was the last time you 1 visited the site -- or the latest time? 2 MR. KUNZLER: I visited the site in August 25th, 3 I believe it was, of 2009. 4 MR. DONALDSON: And during that site visit, what 5 was the -- what did you find with regard to the 6 7 reclamation? 8 MR. KUNZLER: The reclamation work is still not being completed. And it appeared that there had been no 9 work performed since the initial -- or the main work 10 was -- had been done in November of 2007. 11 MR. DONALDSON: In your opinion, what 12 reclamation work still needs to be done at the mine? 13 MR. KUNZLER: There is considerable amount of 14 15 waste dump material that needs to be regraded and blended in to try to achieve proximal contours. This would also 16 involve reducing the high wall cut that was made. 17 MR. DONALDSON: And in your opinion, will the 18 requested Board action allow the remaining necessary 19 reclamation work to be completed in a timely manner? 20 MR. KUNZLER: Yes. 21 22 MR. DONALDSON: And if the Board does approve the Division's request, in your opinion when will the 23 reclamation work be completed? 24

MR. KUNZLER: I would expect that the Division

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would have contracts ready, that we could mobilize late April, early May of 2010 to have that work finished at that time.

MR. DONALDSON: Thank you. It's my understanding, Mr. Kunzler, that you have prepared some photographs of the site, both before reclamation and then after reclamation, the reclamation work that has been done so far. If you want to pull those up.

I'll just ask you to go through the slides and explain to the Board what they are seeing. And if the Board has any questions, feel free to ask Mr. Kunzler.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Are these the same photographs that are in Exhibit D?

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: Initially, this mine -- when this mine was approved, there's no criteria or requirements for a bond. Is that what...

MR. KUNZLER: Yes, that is correct. There was no requirement from the state to bond the site.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: So they are grandfathered under some older criteria, correct?

MR. KUNZLER: No. When our bonding rules took

effect, we allowed them a period of time to come into compliance with the bonding rules. But that bonding requirement was for all existing, as well as new, mining operations.

BOARD MEMBER GILL: Did they come into compliance? Do you want to check if they come into compliance?

MR. KUNZLER: No, they never did post a bond.

That's one of the reasons why that cessation order was issued is because they had not completed reclamation, nor did they give us a bond to cover reclamation costs.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Approximately when did bonding requirements come into effect? Was it about two years ago, is that correct?

MR. KUNZLER: Naturally, for the small mining operations that were in existence, we required those to be bonded by December of 2006.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER GILL: I have one question. The question is: Are there other small mining operations still, then, unbonded?

MR. KUNZLER: I suspect there's still a few. Some of them we're still working with, as far as getting to either this point, or having reclamation or the bond in place.

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BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: I have a question, too.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: I notice on the Plan of Operations that was submitted in 1996, that it says this was an existing mine site. Is there disturbance at that mine site that predated Diversified Stone's involvement, and would you be seeking, basically, the costs for reclaiming that stuff, if there is?

MR. KUNZLER: No. We're only looking at being able to go in and reclaim the areas that Mr. Aguiar re-affected of any old mining that may have been in the area.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: So you're able to distinguish between the two --

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: -- so you are not going to ask Mr. Aguiar to pay for the preexisting...

MR. KUNZLER: Exactly.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: I have a question.

I notice in your petition, and maybe this goes to counsel, that you are seeking against Mr. Aguiar dba Diversified Stone Products. And yet I notice within the body that there's a reference to Diversified Stone Products, Inc.

My question is: How are you getting at

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Mr. Aguiar, personally? Is it a dba, or is it a corporation? And I guess the other -- if it's a corporation, is the corporation still in good standing?

MR. DONALDSON: It is a corporation, Diversified Stone Products, Inc., and Mr. Aguiar is the president of the corporation, it's our understanding. But we are not -- we don't know at this time whether the corporation is in good standing.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: I guess it's really not for this Board, but if you go forward and spend money and then seek to recover it, you're going to have to deal with the issue of whether you are stuck with a corporation or whether you can pierce through the corporate veil and get at Mr. Aguiar. So any relief that this Board would give, then, would be as against Diversified Stone Products. Is that --

MR. DONALDSON: That's correct.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: Do you have an estimate for the amount of money that's needed to reclaim, No. 1? And No. 2, what was the amount of bond requested?

MR. KUNZLER: The amount of bond that was requested for this that I -- was based on calculations that the Bureau of Land Management had provided. And it

[16] 1 was in the neighborhood of \$25,000 for reclamation of 2 this site. BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: That's not a huge amount. 3 MR. KUNZLER: No, it's not a terribly large --4 it is for just a couple of acres of reclamation, it's 5 substantial, but. 6 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Ms. Semborski, do you have a 7 question? 8 9 BOARD MEMBER SEMBORSKI: I do have a question, 10 thank you. Who would do the reclamation work? Who would be 11 in charge of that process, and where would the funding 12 come from for that work? 13 MR. KUNZLER: To my understanding, the Division 14 15 does have some non-lapsing funds that we can use to hire 16 a third-party contractor. As far as which contractor 17 would do that, I can't answer that now. We would put that out for bid. 18 19

BOARD MEMBER SEMBORSKI: But it would be done by the Division.

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MR. KUNZLER: By a third-party contractor. The Division would oversee the work.

BOARD MEMBER SEMBORSKI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KUNZLER: If I can proceed, then, with the slides here.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. KUNZLER: Again, this is just the GPS map of the area.

BOARD MEMBER GILL: And where is that in general? What would be likely the closest community?

MR. KUNZLER: Closest community is probably Joseph, Utah. This site is located about 20 miles south of Richfield, Utah. It's on the alunite mining district, north of Marysvale.

This area, right here, is the access road that was reclaimed. The rest of this area, here, is the quarry, and the dump is along this southwestern edge, north being to the top of this particular drawing.

This is what the site looked like, looking to the southeast of the site prior to any reclamation work. Another one of the site looking to the northwest. This is a high wall area, here. The pits and mining was being conducted in this area. And then back here is where topsoil was being stockpiled.

Okay. Again, here, this is a high wall area, here. Pit floor. He did have a substantial berm along the top of the waste dump area. Okay.

In August of 2007, there had been some work done prior to my site visit. If you notice the berm across the top of the high wall has been pulled back into the

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pit floor. Again, this is that same time period. Most of the holes, and that, were filled in at that time.

Again, you notice the high wall along here. Topsoil stockpile still sitting there to the back.

Just another quick view of that.

This is a dump material, again down here, that we had talked with -- when I say "we," both myself and the BLM had requested and instructed Mr. Aguiar that this material needed to be pulled back up and graded against the high wall cut.

Another view of that waste dump, here. Waste dump pretty much continued along the distance of the quarry. This is looking at the north end of the waste dump, through here.

In November, Diversified Stone did have a separate contractor out here doing a little bit of work. And the track hoe is starting to do the work on reclaiming the access road at this time, even though at the time the quarry itself had not been completely regraded, as you'll see in some subsequent photos here.

Again, this is the access road. At this point, they did put a substantial berm here between the access road and the quarry. I want to pay particular attention here. You can still see the compaction and traction in this area here, from when the work was done in August.

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There was not much work on the quarry floor done since that August time frame.

April 29 of 2008 we conducted another site visit. We have Michael Jackson and Wayne Wetzel, I believe, from the BLM here. This is Tony Aguiar. We discussed the type of work that still needed to be finished to regrade this. And at that time Mr. Aguiar admitted that the regrading work was not what we had discussed with him prior to reclamation.

Again, just another view looking to the north across the quarry floor, and the high wall is along here. The top of the cut is just right where -- at the edge of the vegetation there.

This is the regraded access road, in here. Both the Division and the BLM felt that the regrading work was satisfactory on the access road, although we still need to have access to the site to finish the reclamation still.

This is the berm, right here, that blocked the access road going into the quarry. You can still notice there is substantial amount of waste material that should have been graded into the quarry.

Last half-dozen photos are of my inspection in August of this year. This is at the quarry, looking back along the access road, the grading portion from this area

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to up here. Again, there has been a little bit of settling, and most of the vegetation in here is volunteer. This site was never seeded. Most of it is halogeton. There are a few shadscale plants that we would like to -- that would be good to have there. We wouldn't want to redisturb those.

Again, a photo of the waste drop dump that still needs to be pulled back and put into the quarry floor.

This is the north side of the dump. There were a lot of vines put over the side of the dump, but it's still in basically an angle of repose. And as you'll notice the size of the vegetation here, the few shrubs here, this end of the quarry dump never was regraded.

This is standing towards the northern end looking back across the floor. The vegetation that you see in here is all halogeton. Again, the high wall slope, here. And the dump is going off to the right, there.

This is taken from up along the side of the high wall looking down again at the floor. You can see this portion here never was regraded. The berm is still there. This is our topsoil stockpile in that area. And I have to say that with a grain of salt. It's not a high quality soil material. It would be very marginal to use.

And final view, again, notice the high wall

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cuts. And it's still relatively flat. In fact, there's a pile of material, here, that's actually higher than this area in here, still leaving somewhat of a depression in there. And we felt that there's enough material in the waste dump that it would cut it back to a line somewhere in this area here. This material would fill in this wedge and would nearly completely fill the high wall at an acceptable angle for reclamation as well as blending in with the natural contours in the area.

This is the final slide, here, taken across the valley. This is the area that was not regraded, in this area here. This is the high wall, back in here. And the rest of this is a waste dump.

This portion, right here, is the road that was regraded. And again, there was no seeding done on any of the work that had been done, just a little bit of regrading in this area from about here, coming across here. And most of it, I believe, was the removal of that berm along there, pulling it across the quarry floor.

That's my last slide.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Can you go back to that slide for one second?

MR. KUNZLER: This one?

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Yes. Mr. Payne asked about the earlier site, and you said that you were able

to identify that. Where is that?

MR. KUNZLER: I think most of the area that had been disturbed prior to Diversified Stone going in was reaffected. There's a little bit, right in this area here, that was disturbed. And this was probably the access road going in at that time. And so this area, here, is about all that's left on this area that was redisturbed; and we would not be doing anything with that.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Okay.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: One other question: Does Diversified Stone hold any other permits in this state?

MR. KUNZLER: At this time, no.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Okay.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead.

MR. DONALDSON: Members of the Board, this concludes the State's presentation of evidence. We ask that the Exhibits A through D be accepted into the record. D is the slide presentation that you saw, including the map. And A, B, and C are attached as exhibits to the filing, the Division's filing.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Donaldson, did you have any testimony dealing with Exhibit B?

MR. DONALDSON: No. Exhibit B -- that's a good point. Exhibit B is a letter from the Bureau of

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Reclamation -- what's that? I'm sorry, I thought I heard something -- just a letter from the Bureau of Reclamation.

I think Mr. Jackson is going...

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Is it Bureau of Reclamation or Bureau of Land Management?

MR. DONALDSON: I'm sorry. Bureau of Land Management. Excuse me. BLM.

Mr. Jackson is going to testify as to the BLM's position on this matter.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DONALDSON: So --

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: All right.

MR. DONALDSON: -- I think we'll turn the time to him.

TESTIMONY OF MR. JACKSON

MR. JACKSON: I'm Michael Jackson. I'm a geologist. I'm currently employed with the Utah State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Prior to 2007 I worked for the Richfield field office of the BLM. I know where this project is located. I was personally responsible for this case from 1999 to the present. I've continued to work with it, even though I work for the state office at this time. Appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Board.

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The Agency -- or the Division asked me to provide a supporting testimony, and I'll try to keep it as brief, and more of a summary, rather than going into extensive detail on the BLM record. I'll be glad to answer any questions you have, as well.

Okay. BLM's record started in December 1994, when a notice was filed by Diversified Stone Products with the Bureau of Land Management, the Richfield field office. Based on a map that was filed with the notice, there was an arrow that showed an area where discarded material would be placed north of the quarry along the access road, approximately at the same topographic contour as the quarry would be. The quarry was also indicated on this map. This was not a large scale map or a small area map. It was basically a 24,000, 7.5 minute topo map, so it didn't have, you know, great detail.

For reclamation, at that time our notices required that the operator make a reclamation statement. And the statement was that all areas affected will be recontoured to fit into the surrounding area. And I added the italics for "fit." I guess that's interpretation, but it indicated that he was going to reclaim, and it would be recontoured, as much as it could, into the preexisting topographic contour.

In the BLM acknowledgment letter for the notice,

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we had several operating procedures that we were requiring. And I captured a couple of those. One was that, "Overburdened and reject material shall be stockpiled up slope on the access road and separately from the topsoil."

And then Operating Procedure 4 was, "Upon completion of operations (except to the extent necessary to preserve mineralization), overburden shall be returned to the pit to recontour the surface to near natural slope. Then the topsoil would be re-spread over this fill material."

The part in the parenthesis about preserving mineralization, that's a requirement out of our regulations. It's probably more applicable to hard rock, you know, exploration, where you may still have some mineralized areas that you want to keep open as an exposure.

This is a photo that was taken in 1999. It's similar to the one that land -- or the Division had.

This is an earlier photo. In the black -- the black line is more or less the outline of what we considered to be the surface disturbance associated with this operation.

The quarry is outlined in the blue line. And basically it is in this area, right here, is where the rock was removed from.

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The way I interpreted the original notice, the waste rock material was going to go up here at the north end, north of the quarry, more or less on topographic contour. As the quarry developed, the material was cast over the side and formed a waste rock dump. And the green line is vaguely visible, is more or less the toe of that dump.

And then below that, there were some scattered larger boulders that rolled off the dump as the material was dumped over the side. Essentially, what they did was quarry the rock with a back hoe or track hoe and swiveled around and dumped it over the edge as they worked the material.

There was an access road that came into the site prior to the notice being filed in 1994. You can see the road through here. My belief is that that road was probably part of the uranium exploration in the 70s. This project is just north of what's called the "Central Mining Area," which was where uranium was mined north of Marysvale back in the 50s and 60s, and some work continued into the 70s.

The road was basically a -- you know, a narrow two track. It had vegetation growing in the center of it. And, you know, someone had probably taken a dozer and did a side cut along this hill. It's possible it

could have been earlier and related to some of the alunite mining that's been done in this area, as well.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Mike, I have a question.

In the BLM file, is there any evidence of any notices

from the BLM that the waste rock dump area that was being

utilized was not in conformity with the initial

application and approval?

MR. JACKSON: There was no waste rock dump, to my knowledge, in this area prior to the work being done by Diversified Stone Product.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Yeah. And my question is -- and that's what the picture shows. And you've talked on an earlier slide about Procedure No. 3 and it being placed in the north, but it doesn't appear that that occurred.

And my question is: Is there any evidence of the BLM giving any kind of a notice that it wasn't being complied with?

MR. JACKSON: I was not responsible for the file prior to '99. I did have some limited involvement. I inspected the site in 1997, prior to BLM having an inspection with Tony Aguiar to address the concern that the waste rock was being dumped over the side. There is a photo that shows that the dump was there in 1997. Unfortunately, there were not photos taken that were

preoperational for Tony Aguiar's rock operation.

But I did go on-site in 1994 when the notice was originally filed. And I have no recollection that there was anything other than a relatively small access road coming through the area where the project area is at this time -- where the disturbance is. You can see there is some older disturbance. There's this area, here, to the north or northwest. It looks like, you know, someone had made a dozer cut.

And my recollection is that this part of the road, there was a side cut that was maybe three, four feet high on the inside. And obviously, some of that material would be have been cast over the side, but I wouldn't say it extended more than, you know, a few feet down the slope, you know. It was just typical road construction for exploration -- go in with the dozer, cut it, and the material rolls down the side.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: And so you did have -- you were involved in it certainly in '99. Is that right?

MR. JACKSON: In '99, I took over responsibility for BLM's administration of the site.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: So after you took over, did you do anything relative to the notice?

MR. JACKSON: Yes, I did. Starting in 2000 and 2001, I -- BLM sent letters to Tony. Tony had been

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sending in annual updates saying he was going to continue operations as is. And BLM, through my review of the file, we decided we would not accept a notice that did not more fully address what the operation was going to be: You know, where's the quarry going to be; what's going to be the configuration of the quarry; and how high is the high wall cut going to be; how far into the slope is he going to mine; and then where is he going to put his material that he's going to be working to pull out the decorative rock; and then the waste rock, where would that be placed?

And as we've been through the slides, starting in 2001, at that point we required -- was when our regulations became in effect that we had to have a bond for this operation. And we had letters that addressed, that requirement, as well. So starting in '99, 2000, I, personally, and BLM attempted to, you know, try to get a better description of what the operation would be and get it bonded to cover the disturbance.

Okay. As I just said, on January 20, 2001, we -- BLM had new federal regulations that required a financial guarantee for reclamation, and that financial guarantee had to be posted with BLM by January 20, 2003. So essentially there was a two-year window in which operations that had started prior to 2001 would now be

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required to post an adequate bond with BLM. BLM attempted to get a bond, and we were unable to ever get a satisfactory estimate or bond in place from the operator, Diversified Stone.

So on November 7, 2003, BLM issued a decision that a financial guarantee of \$24,900 was required within 60 days. The operator believed the estimate was high, and he said he would provide another estimate to BLM for us to review. But we never received another estimate. In fact, I don't remember the exact dates, but in January 2003, when the 60-day period expired -- it wasn't exactly January 7th, because we take it from the date of receipt -- Tony had called me and -- called my manager and said, "I'll have an estimate to you on Monday. Will you extend it to Monday?" And we still never received another estimate from the operator.

So the next year, on June 21, 2004, since we did not have a financial guarantee, by the effect of the regulations the notice had expired, and Diversified Stone was required to reclaim the site. And we gave him 60 days to complete that work.

Two years later, when we still did not have reclamation, BLM issued a noncompliance order for the failure to reclaim the site, and again required reclamation within 60 days.

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In November 2006 and April 2007, we met with the operator. I think it was Tony Aguiar. I believe the Division was there, represented by Lynn Kunzler and myself; and we, at the site, discussed what was necessary for reclamation to comply with the previous decision and the noncompliance order.

This is an inspection photo on August 8, 2006. You can again see that there's the waste rock dump on the left, and the old quarry on the right, with the high wall or quarry face on the right. This is the access road that the operator used to get into his site. And you can see that the dump extends down the slope. The slope is about a 30-degree angle, if I remember correctly, so it's a moderately steep slope. There's a berm of material that's on the perimeter on the southeast -- or southwest side of the quarry. This is basically looking northwest.

Okay. Through the previous decision that reclamation was required, then the noncompliance order and the inspections with the operator, BLM was requiring that the quarry be reclaimed to the natural contour to the extent feasible. This would require that the quarry be backfilled to the height of the high wall cut, not just simply fill in the pit floor. Rock material that had been cast down the slope on the waste rock dump would need to be pulled up from the slope. And the rock

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material from the dump, another stockpile should be used to backfill and recontour the quarry -- hence, our surface disturbance.

We addressed that, depending on the equipment he had on site, you know, he may need to work in lifts where he would have to move material from one level up to the next level and then move it again. So we didn't anticipate that it would just be bring an excavator out and simply pull it up the slope.

We talked about the access road would need to be recontoured. And at the inspection, I addressed that while the large boulders -- if you can remember the slide I showed first -- there were some large boulders that were down below the toe of the dump -- that those could remain in place.

And then finally, the available topsoil would be respread and recontoured.

This is an inspection photo on August 28, 2007. You'll notice that the berm is gone. Here's the high wall, or the quarry face. This is the pit floor. And here's the dump. The berm that was present would have run along through here. It appears from the photo, basically what he did was pull that berm material, and maybe a little bit more material, back into the quarry area to level out the quarry floor.

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The operator did not contact BLM. But when I called him after inspecting the site, he said they had equipment problems and that they were planning to return and complete reclamation when they could get the equipment repaired.

On November 30, 2007, the operator had done some additional reclamation work. You know, again, the quarry face, the old pit floor, and here's the waste rock dump. And it appears that this time there is a little bit of --it's not real visible in the photo -- but it appeared that with the equipment he had, he pulled out material down to a certain level. And there's a little bit of a line or declivity through there that kind of indicates the extent of where he pulled additional material up. This, again, is a view towards the northwest.

Between September 26, 2006, and July 23, BLM documented 36 phone calls with the operator to determine the operator's plans to comply with the noncompliance order. The operator often stated that he intended -- had intended dates to call when plans were finalized, or dates when he planned to start the reclamation work. The operator often postponed the reclamation for various hardships. Some of these was that he was trying to sell personal property to get the money to reclaim the site. He was trying to sell partial ownership of Diversified

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Stone Products, but was awaiting finalization. And he often said that a subcontractor would be present. But we had no notification when there was a change in plans.

BLM completed, during this time, ten inspections, and many of these were with the operator to be assured that the operator understood the reclamation that's required.

Just to summarize, reclamation -- in BLM's view, reclamation has not been completed that meets the standards of the federal regulations, and the operator is in noncompliance. The noncompliance order issued in 2006 remains in effect, and that requires reclamation.

Limited recontouring of the surface disturbance has leveled the quarry pit floor, but does not restore the land to a natural condition to the extent feasible. Waste rock piles have not been satisfactorily recontoured. The quarry face is still present without adequate backfilling to eliminate or to reduce the exposed cut.

The last contact between the operator and BLM was on July 23, 2008, by phone, when he had made arrangements with DOGM, or the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, to complete the reclamation in the fall of 2008. The operator has not made any additional contacts with BLM to follow up with reclamation and the noncompliance order.

That ends my presentation.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Does the Board have any questions for Mr. Jackson?

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: I have a question.

When was the last time any material was moved by operator from -- to be sold or -- when was the last date of activity in this quarry?

MR. JACKSON: I believe the last time

Diversified Stone Products mined rock, you know, removed in place rock from the ground, was prior to 1999 or 2000. I met with Tony at about that date. I'd have to check the file to get the exact date. But Tony said he was not mining at that time, and he would only be reworking the waste piles to recover any usable rock out of those piles. So I don't think he has actually quarried rock since about 1999. He has done some limited removal from the stockpiles that are on site.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: Was the reclamation language specifically in the body of the permit or lease that he signed on, or he had?

MR. JACKSON: When the notice was filed in 1994 by regulation, under the 3809 regs, the operator was required to have a reclamation statement. And the BLM notice form had a place where he could sign and make his statement as to what he would do for reclamation. And

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that original notice, he has stated that he would recontour the site to fit back into the natural terrain.

The subsequent updates for the next two or three years had similar statements. And then, as I said, after about 1990 -- I don't remember the exact date, but '99, 2000, when he gave us a new update for that year, I would not accept that notice because I felt that he needed to give us a new description of what his operations would be to adequately cover, you know, what he would be creating as part of his mining. And then in 2001, he was required to give us a bond within two years.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: So did he give you a new notice when you required it?

MR. JACKSON: We never got a new notice. You know, when he submitted the notice that he was going to continue operations, we sent a letter back that addressed what needed to be -- what he needed to address in his notice. And we never got a new notice.

And as I said, at that time he said he wasn't going to be quarrying anymore. He would simply rework the waste piles and stockpiles that were already in existence.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any other questions?

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: I have a couple of questions.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: I do, too.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: In the Request for Agency Action, the notice is dated '96. I'm just trying to understand. You refer to it '94.

MR. JACKSON: Apparently -- excuse me.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Go ahead.

MR. JACKSON: Apparently, BLM must have received -- well, we received a notice in '94. At that time, we were forwarding those to the Division. I can't say what happened in that case. You know, we didn't forward it, or somehow it -- anyway, somehow it didn't make it to the Agency. But we did receive a notice in 1994.

We believe that the Division did receive the '94 notice, and the '96 was one of the updates.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: I have another question, and I apologize for being probably what is naive. But when you talked about the Division having some money to undertake this work, my question is: How is it that the Division has the responsibility and not the BLM? Seems like the application is coming into the BLM; the BLM is setting forth the requirements. And I'm just trying to understand how it moves from one agency to another.

MR. KUNZLER: I think part of why the Division has that there, and that responsibility, is under our

mining rules and law, reclamation is required by the Division, and the Act and Rules do allow the Division to complete reclamation when we have an unwilling or unable operator to do that, and recover costs through court.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Is there a corresponding at the federal level?

MR. KUNZLER: Yes.

MR. JACKSON: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: What I'm concerned about is that we can get all done and spend the money and not be able to collect it or recover it.

MR. JACKSON: BLM's next step in this case will be that we will issue yet another decision that reclamation is required within a certain time frame. And in that decision we will state that if the reclamation is not completed, that the BLM will reclaim the site at our cost -- or the Government's cost -- and then bill the operator and claimants of record to recover that cost.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: So is the chicken coming first, or the egg?

MR. JACKSON: Well, I guess I don't know if I'm speaking out of hand here.

MR. DONALDSON: Can I just say something? I think the reason we're here before the Board is, in order for the site to be reclaimed, Board action is required.

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Without -- in other words, the Board needs to approve reclamation of the site by the Division in order for that to happen without the operators -- without the operator doing it.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Can I interject?

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Well, I understand that from the state level. But it seems to me that we've kind of got a juggling going back and forth here, about who is on first. I'm just posing the question. I'm certainly

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Payne.

not trying to decide that or give you direction.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: I agree with Mr. Jensen. It seems the BLM has initiated a process here. Their February 2009 letter specifically says they will take further action to reclaim the site.

I'm not convinced, Mr. McDonald (sic), that there's an order needed from this Board for the BLM to take that action. So I'm with Mr. Jensen. It seems like there's competing agencies -- or competing initiatives here. And I guess I would prefer to see that the BLM initiative play out before the state get involved. And I guess I'd like to get a response as to why that wouldn't be sufficient.

MR. DONALDSON: Just a moment.

MR. ALDER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Alder.

MR. ALDER: Perhaps, Mr. Baker is familiar with the -- he's the manager over the mineral section. He could explain that better.

MR. KUNZLER: Several months ago we had a phone conference with BLM officials, both in Richfield and the state office, in order for -- the BLM was looking at using what they call "force account funds," which may or may not be available at this time. And the one thing that we looked at and discussed, and why we're looking at this Board action and being able to use the state funds to do it is, we would provide those funds to the BLM so that they could get the work done in a timely manner and not have to wait for a budgeting session or two on the federal level before they would have the funds available to proceed with the work themselves.

BOARD MEMBER JENSEN: Without -- and is that, then, without recovery, or would there be --

MR. KUNZLER: We would be reimbursed eventually.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Would the state be reimbursed by the federal government if there was a failure to recover all the costs? I guess where I struggle is, if it's BLM property, the benefit of reclamation is going to go to the BLM.

MR. KUNZLER: Right. But it's also having the

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site reclaimed now, versus in two or three years, potentially, while we're waiting for BLM funds to be available to do that work. It's going back to getting it done in a timely manner. We've been several years trying to get the site reclaimed.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Just to step back. Is there an MOU or other similar device between the state and the BLM that addresses what happens in these kind of situations where you're both interested in getting the reclamation accomplished?

MR. KUNZLER: Not that I'm aware of.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Paul?

MR. BAKER: No, there's not.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Jackson, did the BLM collect royalties from Diversified Stone Products?

MR. JACKSON: This mining was done under the mining laws, and there is no royalty --

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: -- under the mining law, in the rules.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Any other questions?

Mr. Donaldson, I don't think we finalized the admission of your exhibits. I'm wondering what you want to do with the slides that Mr. Jackson testified to.

MR. DONALDSON: We would like to have those,

[42] 1 also, admitted as --CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: As Exhibit E? 2 MR. DONALDSON: -- as Exhibit E. 3 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Does the Board have 4 any objections to any of the exhibits? 5 Okay. Then Exhibits A through E will be 6 admitted. 7 8 Mr. Donaldson do you want to summarize? Or are 9 we at that point? 10 MR. DONALDSON: I want to summarize. We believe the evidence and testimony that has 11 been given today, and submitted, supports the Division's 12 requested action from the Board. And we would just 13 request that the Board issue the order as requested by 14 15 the Division. And we'd be happy to answer any other questions, if necessary. 16 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Are there other questions 17 from the Board? 18 Okay. Let me ask one more time: Is Tony Aguiar 19 present this morning, or is there anyone present that's 20 authorized to speak for Mr. Aguiar or Diversified Stone 21 Products? 22 23 Seeing no one, is there anyone else present who

would like to address the Board regarding this matter?

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: Mr. Chairman, one last

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question.

Is this the first time that the State has requested -- or trying to reclaim a site on BLM property for and on behalf of the BLM and have a situation where they could be reimbursed, or has this occurred before?

MR. KUNZLER: I believe this is the first one that there has been no reclamation surety available for either the BLM or the State to use in reclaiming a site.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: And this is the first time for a relationship between the State and the BLM to reclaim this site with state money and be reimbursed by the BLM, correct?

MR. KUNZLER: To my knowledge, yes.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: I don't think there is a clear indication that the BLM was going to reimburse the State.

BOARD MEMBER HAROUNY: No, there isn't.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Just so the record is

clear.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Is that correct, Mr. Jackson?

MR. JACKSON: I guess I'm not really

knowledgeable what that process would be. I guess the way I view it is, under our regulations and under the state rules, both entities have responsibilities for

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managing mining and reclamation. And BLM's hope is that the two agencies could work together to try to rectify this problem. And how the money would be worked out, I don't know at this time.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Donaldson.

MR. DONALDSON: Mr. Baker has told me that the -- it's his understanding that the rules provide that the Division -- and also an order from the Board -- would allow the Division to go after the operator for the reclamation expenses and -- not go after the BLM for reimbursement, but go after the operator.

BOARD MEMBER PAYNE: Isn't it correct that the BLM already has the authority, right now, to go after the operator? They've indicated so much in their letter of 2009 that they could perform the reclamation themselves and seek reimbursement. That's in their letter. So it seems like that authority is already -- already exists.

MR. JACKSON: The BLM does have the authority to seek reclamation and to reclaim it and bill it. It's not spelled out specifically in the 3809 regs, but that is the guidance that we're being given on how to deal with this situation.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Anything else? Okay. Thank you. We will take a short break to deliberate, and we'll return shortly. Thank you.

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(The Board deliberated from 10:41 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Okay. We're going to proceed. Let's go back on the record.

By unanimous vote, the Board has made the following decision: Mr. McDonald (sic), we're going to break your request, which was three parts, into four.

Before I proceed, though, I would just like, since we are on the record, I would like to confirm. We heard no testimony this morning referring to any immediate hazard or threat to public safety in this matter. Is that correct?

MR. DONALDSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: That's a yes? Both Mr. Kunzler and Mr. Jackson say "yes." Okay.

The unanimous decision of the Board, then, is that we will grant an order confirming the Division's withdrawal of the Notice of Intention for the Wonder 2 Mine and terminate all rights thereunder.

No. 2, the Order requires that Diversified Stone Products immediately commence reclamation of the mine, pursuant to written notice to Diversified Stone Products by the Division defining the area to be -- that was disturbed by the operator so that there's no confusion with any pre-disturbed areas. Understand that?

MR. DONALDSON: (Mr. Donaldson nodded his head

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in the affirmative.)

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: And No. 3 and No. 4 are going to be contingent upon an item. So let me go through 3 and 4.

No. 3. Providing that if Diversified Stone

Products shall fail to timely proceed with the

reclamation and complete the reclamation work as required

by the applicable regulations, that the Division and/or

the BLM may proceed to complete the reclamation work and

recover its costs against Diversified Stone Products.

No. 4. The Order authorizes the Division to file suit and prosecute such further civil actions, if necessary, to recover all costs associated with the reclamation of the Wonder 2 mine, together with all costs and attorney fees associated therewith.

No. 3 and No. 4, however, are contingent upon a signed agreement between the Division and the BLM that in the absence of recovery of reclamation costs from the mine operator, BLM will reimburse the state for any and all reclamation costs expended by the state.

Are there any questions on that?

MR. DONALDSON: No questions.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Donaldson, will you prepare the Order?

MR. DONALDSON: Yes.

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               CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you very much. We
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      appreciate the effort that went into this.
               MR. DONALDSON: Thank you.
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                (The hearing concluded at 11:21 a.m.)
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